Petitioner

BEFORE THE DEPUTY ZONING COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE COUNTY Case No. 88-322-A

### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

08-322-A

1 172

The Petitioner herein requests a variance to permit the replacement of an existing non-conforming 244 sq.ft. identification sign and pole with a new 196.56 sq.ft. identification sign in lieu of the permitted 100 sq.ft. total for both sides, as more particularly described in Petitioner's Exhibit 1.

The Petitioner, by Charles Vaughn, Construction and Maintenance Engineer with Exxon Company, USA, appeared, testified and was represented by Counsel. Also appearing on behalf of the Petition was David Wang, an Engineer with Frederick Ward & Associates. David H. Stein with the Liberty Communities Development Corporation, Inc., John Celentano, President of the Hernwood Heights Community Association, Edwin Hogan with the Liberty Road Community Council, and Mary Ginn with the Alliance of Baltimore County Community Councils (ABCs), appeared and testified as Protestants.

Testimony indicated that the subject property, known as 8029 Liberty Road, is located across from the intersection of Liberty and Florida Roads and s the site of an Exxon Service Station. Testimony indicated that Exxon is in the process of changing their signs nationwide to modernize them and insure uniformity across the country. Mr. Vaughn testified that at the subject location they propose reducing the present non-conforming sign of 244 sq.ft. to a sign of 196.56 sq.ft. He indicated that due to the location of the subject property, it is his opinion that the sign as depicted on Petitioner's Exhibit 1 is an appropriate size. Mr. Vaughn and Mr. Wang testified that they did not believe a smaller sign would provide adequate opportunity for vehicular traffic to locate

ZONING DESCRIPTION

#### #8029-8033 LIBERTY ROAD ELECTION DISTRICT 2 BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Beginning on the SW/S LIberty Road, Approximately 43 ft. EW of the centerline of Florida Rd. extended.

> ; thence leaving the said point of begin-ning and running on the Southwest side of Liberty Road South 65 degrees 48 minutes 38 seconds East, 175.73 feet; thence leaving the Southwest side of Liberty Road and running South 26 degrees 32 minutes 14 seconds West, 110,67 feet; thence South 60 degrees 56 minutes 46 seconds Ext, 38.30 feet; thence South 40 degrees 07 minutes 16 seconds West, 99.00 feet; thence North 53 degrees 52 minutes 46 seconds West 167.12 feet; thence North 55 degrees 19 minutes 46 seconds West, 65.00 feet; thence running and finding North 39 degrees 13 minutes 00 seconds East, 169,12 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 0,632 Acres, more The state of the s

the site in time to permit them to safely enter the station. Mr. Vaughn testified that he believed a variance was necessary due to the fact that the station is located off of Liberty Road, which is a four-lane undivided street that is heavily traveled at a speed limit of ap ~ xi ately 40 mph. Further, he believed the grade of the road at the site required a larger sign than the permitted 100 sq.ft. to provide sufficient notice to traffic.

Various representatives of the neighboring community associations indicated that their organizations were opposed to the variance requested by the Petitioner as they felt the size of the sign requested was greater than necessary. Mary Ginn on behalf of the ABC's stated that, as a matter of policy, they are opposed to any variances to the Baltimore County sign regulations.

Subsequent to the hearing, by letter dated February 26, 1988, Petitioner's Counsel submitted a proposal to reduce its original request for variance to permit an identification sign of 159.08 sq.ft.

The Petitioner seeks relief from Section 413.2F, pursuant to Section 307 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (B.C.Z.R.).

An area variance may be granted where strict application of the zoning degulations would cause practical difficulty to the Petitioner and his property. clean v. Soley, 270 Md. 208 (1973). To prove practical difficulty for an area Wariance, the Petitioner must meet the following:

- whether strict compliance with requirement would unreasonably prevent the use of the property for a permitted purpose or render conformance unnecessarily burdensome;
- whether the grant would do substantial injustice to applicant as well as other property owners in the district or whether a lesser relaxation than that applied for would give substantial relief; and
- 3) whether relief can be granted in such fashion that the spirit of the ordinance will be observed and public safe-

-2-

Anderson v. Bd. of Appeals, Town of Chesapeake Beach, 22 Md. App. 28 (1974).

It is clear from the testimony that if the variance was granted, such use as proposed would not be contrary to the spirit of the B.C.Z.R. and would not result in substantial detriment to the public good.

After due consideration of the testimony and evidence presented, it is clear that a practical difficulty or unreasonable hardship would result if the variance was not granted. It has been established that the requirement from which the Petitioner seeks relief would unduly restrict the use of the land due to the special conditions unique to this particular parcel. In addition, the variance requested will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property, and public hearing on this Petition held, and for the reasons given above, the requested variance should be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED by the Deputy Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 1988 that the replacement of an existing nonconforming 244 sq.ft. identification sign and pole with a new 159.08 sq.ft. (to-Ital for both sides) identification sign, in lieu of the permitted 100 sq.ft., be approved, and as such, the Petition for Zoning Variance is hereby GRANTED, sublect, however, to the following restriction:

1) The Petitioner may apply for his sign permit and te granted same upon receipt of this Order; however, Fetitioner Is hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at his own risk until such time as the applicable appellate process from this Order has expired. If, for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, the Petitioner would be required to return, and be responsible for returning, said property to its original condition.

2) Petitioner shall samit a new site blan which will show its proposed destification sign of not prester than however ong. Pt. within thirty (so) days of the date of this order and prior to the impulance of any circ permit.

> Ch Dulamin AND M. NASTAB WINE Deputy Loning Commissioner of Ealthware County

ARM (b) 24

March 18, 1988

Anthony J. DiPaula, Esquire Covahey & Boozer, P.A. 614 Bosley Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204

- RE: Petition for Zoning Variance SW/S Liberty Road, 43'+/- NW of the c/l of Florida Road Extended (8029-8033 Liberty Road) 2nd Election District - 2nd Councilmanic District Case No. 88-322-A

Dear Mr. DiPaula:

Enclosed please find the decision rendered on the above-referenced case. The Petition for Zoning Variance has been Granted, subject to the restriction noted in the attached Order.

In the event the decision rendered is unfavorable to any party, please be advised that any party may file an appeal to the County board of Appeals. For further information on filing an appeal, please contact this office.

Very truly yours.

AMN:bjs Enclosures

cc: Mr. David Wang Mr. John Celentano

Ms. Hary Ginn Mr. Edwin Hogan Mr. David H. Stein

People's Counsel

File

AUN M. NASTAROWICZ Deputy Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County

THIS IS TO SERTIFY, that the armexel advertisement was published in the World Mark Star, a weekly newcpaper published in Pikesville, 1 dither. A STATE OF THE STA the first publication appearing on the 1 1 . W 233 02 January , 10 VI the second pullication appearing on tro CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF the thir spublication appearing in the day of The School Service -anager

Cost of Advertisement\_\_\_\_347

CERTIFICATE C. PURITUATION

Management date experience and the control of the c

PETITION FOR ZONING VARIANCE TO THE ZONING COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE COUNTY: The undersigned, legal owner(s) of the property situate in Baltimore County and which is described in the description and plat attached hereto and made a part hereof, hereby petition for a Variance from Section 413.2.f to allow the replacement of an existing non-conforming ) sq. ft. I.D.sign and pole with a new 196.56 sq. ft. I.D. sign in lieu of the allowed 100 sq. ft. total for both sides. 2 B of the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to the Zoning Law of Baltimore County; for the 2nd following reasons: (indicate hardship or practical difficulty) 1. The variance is necessary for effective advertising. 1000 up to tons 2. The variance is necessary for compliance with Baltimore County Zoning 3. The variance is necessary for compliance with State laws. N-20,230 W-40,040 Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by Zoning Regulations. I, or we, agree to pay expenses of above Variance advertising, posting, etc., upon filing of this petition, and further agree to and are to be bound by the zoning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the Zoning Law For Baltimore County. I/We do solemnly declare and affirm, under the penalties of perjury, that I/we are the legal owner(s) of the property which is the subject of this Petition. Legal Owner(s): Contract Purchaser: Exxon Company, U.S.A. (Type or Print Name) (Type or Print Name) 7.2. Conflession Signature Thomas Duriessis Signature Project Engineer (Type or Print Name) City and State Attorn'y for Petitioner: 785-6634 11350 McCormick Road Phone No. (Type or Print Name) Hunt Valley, Marvland 21031 City and State Name, address and phone number of legal owner, cortract purchaser or representative to be contacted David Wang. Frederick Ward Associates Altorney's Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 5 S. Main St., Bel Air, MD 21014 (301)879-2090 ORDERED By The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, this

ORDERED By The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, this

ORDERED By The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, that the subject matter of this petition be advertised, as required by the Zoning Law of Baltimore County, in two newspapers of general circulation throughout Baltimore County, that property be posted, and that the public hearing be had before the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County in Room 136, County Office Building in Towson, Baltimore County on the County, on the \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 1988, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock

Some then take

## CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE OF HEARING The Zumane Commissioners of its tenure County, by authorsty of the Luning Act and Regulations of Balte more County, will hold a public hearing on the property identifies before in Science Lib of the Country Checa building located at 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue in Towson. Maryland as follows

Case number 88-322-A

SW/5 Liberty Road, 43' ± NW of c (50"-MILLS Laborry Road) 2nd Election District - 2nd Council manus Dates of State Vertex to allow the replacement of an emitting more confirming () of H 1 D bugs and pole with a new 1 to be of R 1 D aign in live of the atherest litt my in his best makes in the event that this Petition is granted, a building permit may be mound within the there (30) day ap-peal period. The Lonning Commis-menter will, however, emertain any ment he is may of the mounter of second cause shown. Such request request to a may of the mounter of request he is may of the mounter of

TOWSON, MD. Jan. 28 1088 THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that the annexed advertisement was published in THE JEFFERSONIAN, a weekly newspaper printed and published in Towson, Baltimore County, Md., appearing on Jan. 25, 1098

THE JEFFERSONIAN,

Descendence of medical Publisher

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING ZONING DEPARTMENT OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

Outrict of the factorial and t	Date of Posting
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	freet properties 123 February Poor
busied by Signature	Date of return.

this cities by the date of the hearing we above or presented at the hear

1.54 Jun. 28

1 ROBERT HAINES

Zonung Commissioner of Baltimore County

Baltimore County Zoning Commissioner Office of Planning & Zoning Towson, Maryland 21204 494-3353

J. Robert Asines

NOTICE OF HEARING



The Zoning Commissioner of Baltime : County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County will hold a public hearing on the property identified herein in Room 106 of the County Office Building, located at 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue in Towson, Maryland as follows:

Case number: 88-322-A SW/S Liberty Road, 43°± NW of c/1 Flordia Road, extended (8029 - 8033 Liberty Road) 2nd Election District - 2nd Councilmanic District Petitioner: Exxon Company, U.S.A. DATE/TIME: FEBRUARY 19, 1988 at 10:CJ a.m.

8 8 011\*\*\*\*\*10000:a #0006

Baltimore County

494-3554

MSF:sb

68-322-A

Department of Public Works

Bureau of Traffic Engineering

Mr. J. Robert Haines

County Office Building

Towson, Maryland 21204

169, 170, 171, 172) 173, 174, 175, and 176.

\_\_\_\_\_ day of November \_\_\_\_, 19 87.

Zoning Commissioner

Deal Mr. Haines:

Courts Building, Suite 405

Towson, Maryland 21204

VALIDATION OR SIGNATURE OF CASHIER

Variance to allow the replacement of an existing non-conforming (\_\_\_\_) sq. ft.

I. D. Sign and pole with a new 196.56 sq. ft. I. D. sign in lieu of the allowed 100 sq. ft. total for both sides.

In the event that this Petition is granted, a building permit may be issued within uring this period for good BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND 'ed in this office by the date OFFICE OF FINANCE - REVENUE DIVISION MISCILLANEOUS CASH RECEIPT 1/1/157 \_ACCOUNT\_01-615.000 AMOUNT \$ 100.00

Baltimore County Zoning Commissioner Office of Planning & Zoning Towson, Maryland 21204 J. Robert Haines
Zoning Communication

Mr. David Wang Frederick Ward Associates

Bel Air, Maryland 21014

5 S. Main Street



Re: Case number: 88-322-A SW/S Liberty Road, 43'± NW of c/1 Flordia Road, extended (8029 - 8033 Liberty Road) 2nd Election District - 2nd Councilmanic District Petitioner: Exxon Company, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Wang:

Please be advised that 1.58 is due for advertising and posting of the above-referenced property. All advertising and posting fees must be paid prior to the hearing. Do <u>not</u> remove the sign(s) from the property from the time it posted by this office until the day of the hearing itself.

THIS FEE MUST BE PAID AND THE ZONING SIGN AND POST RETURNED ON THE DAY OF THE HEARING OR THE ORDER SHALL NOT BE ISSUED.

Please make your check payable to Baltimore County, Maryland and forward to the Zoning Office. County Office Building, Room 113, Towson, Maryland 21204. BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND OFFICE OF FINANCE REVENUE DIVISION MISCELLANFOUS CASH RECEIPT B B 67: \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* 613.5

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. J. Robert Haines January 14, 1988 TO Zoning Commissioner P. David Fields

FROM Director of Planning and Zoning Zoning Petition Nos. 88-320-A, 88,321-A, SUBJECT\_88-322-A, 88-323-A, 88-324-A

Zoning Petition Nos. 88-320-A, 88-321-A, 88-322-A, 88-323-A and 88-324-A are all variances for replacement signs at existing stations. Although no particular sight distant problems exist, the proposed signs are for square footages of approximately 158, 128, 196, 158 and 158, respectively. This office fails to see the need for the excess sign areas and recommends that all of the replacement signs be approximately 128 square feet in total area. Therefore, this office is supportive of the granting of petition number 88-321-A, but is opposed to the granting of the remainder.

Finally, this office opposes the  $0^{\dagger}$  setback request for two parking spaces of petition number 88-321-A.

P. David Fields per J. Houvell

P. David Fields

Director

PDF:JGH:dme

cc: Ms. Shirley M. Hess, Legal Assistant, People's Counsel

ZONING OFFICE

Baltimore County Fire Department Towson, Maryland 21204-2586 494-4500

Paul H. Reincke J. Robert Haines Zoning Commissioner

VALIDATION OR SIGNATURE OF CASHIER

November 25, 1987

Office of Planning and Zoning Baltimore County Office Building Towson, MD 21204

Re: Property Owner: Exxon Company, USA Location: SW/S Liberty Road, approx. 43' NW of c/l of Florida Rd., extended.

Zoning Agenda: Meeting of 11/17/87 Item No.: 172

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to your request, the referenced property has been surveyed by tris-Bureau and the comments below marked with an "X" are applicable and required to be corrected or incorporated into the final plans for the property.

( ) 1. Fire hydrants for the referenced property are required and shall be located at intervals or \_\_\_\_ feet along an approved road in accordance with Baltimore County Standards as published by the Department of Public Works.

( ) 2. A second means of vehicle access is required for the site.

( ) 3. The vehicle dead end condition shown at

EXCEEDS the maximum allowed by the Fire Department.

( ) 4. The site shall be made to comply with all applicable parts of the Fire Prevention Code prior to occupancy or beginning of operation.

( ) 5. The buildings and structures existing or proposed on the site shall comply with all applicable requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard No. 101 "Life Safety Code," 1976 edition prior to occupancy.

( ) 6. Site plans are approved, as drawn.

( x ) 7. The Fire Prevention Bureau has no comments at this time.

REVIEWER: A lange of the Moted and Approved:

Pharming Aroup
Special Inspection Division

Noted and Free Prevention Bureau

Dennis F. Rasmussen

Chairman, Zoning Plans Petitioner Exxon C ompany, U.S.A. Advisory Committee Petitioner's Mr. Thomas DuPlessis
Project Engineer XXXXXXXXXXX

BALTIMORE COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING & ZONING

County Office Building
111 W. Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Marrland 21204

Your petition has been received and accepted for filing this

The Bureau of Traffic Engineering has no comment for items number

December 2, 1987

Very truly yours,

Michael S. Flanigan

Traffic Engineer Associate II

CPS-OOR

BALTIMORE COUNTY ZONING PLANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COUNTY OFFICE BLDG. lil W. Chesapeake Ave. Towson, Maryland 21204

Mr. Thomas DuPlessis Project Engineer 11350 McCormick Road Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

> RE: Item No. 172 - Case No. 88-322-A Petitioner: Exxon Company, U.S.A. Petition for Zoning Variance

Dear Mr. DuPlessis:

Department of Traffic Engineering Bureau of Fire Prevention

Health Department Project Planning Building Department Board of Education Toning Administration

Industrial Development

Engineering

The Zoning Plans Advisory Committee has reviewed the plans submitted with the above-referenced petition. The following comments are not intended to indicate the appropriateness of the zoning action requested, but to assure that all parties are made aware of plans or problems with regard to the development plans that may have a bearing on this case. The Director of Planning may file a written report with the Zoning Commissioner with recommendations as to the suitability of the requested zoning.

Enclosed are all comments submitted from the members of the Committee at this time that offer or request information on your petition. If similar comments from the remaining members are received. I will forward them to you. Otherwise, any comment that is not informative will be placed in the hearing file. This petition was accepted for filing on the date of the enclosed filing certificate and a hearing scheduled accordingly.

Chairman Zoning Plans Advisory Committee

JED:kkb

Enclosures

cc: David Wang Frederick Ward Associates 5 S. Main Street Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration

Richard H. Trainor Secretary Hal Kassoff Administrator

November 23, 1987

Mr. J. Robert Haines Zoning Commissioner County Office Building Towson, Maryland 21204 At\*: James Dyer

1913E

ZONING STAIGE

Re: Baltimore County Item #172 Property Owner: Exxon Company, U.S.A. Location: SW/S Liberty Rd Maryland Route 2 approximately 43 feet NW of the centerline of Flordia Road, extended Existing Zoning: B.L.-CSA and B.L. Proposed Coming: Variance to allow the replacement of an aexisting nonconforming I.D. sign and pole with a new 196.56 sq. foot I.D. sign in lieu of the allowed 100 sq. foot total for both sides Area: 0.892 acres

District: 2nd

Dear Mr. Haines:

On review of the submittal of August 27, 1984, the State Highway Administration-Bureau of Engineering Access Permits offers the following comments.

The submittal for variance of a business sign has been forwarded to the State Highway Administration Beautification Section, c/o Morris Stein (333-16420 for all comments relative to zoning.

If you have any questions, please call Larry Brocato of this office at 333-1350.

> Very truly yours, Crement Allinia Creston J. Mills, Jr. Acting Chief-Bureau of

Engineering Access Permits

My terephone no riter is (301) 3.13-13:20 Teletypewriter for impaired Hearing or Speech .energy emitter in impaired remaining on उपलब्ध । 383 7555 Baithnore Metro - 565-0451 D C Metro - 1800 492 5062 Statemide foli Free 707 North Calvert St., 8aithnore, Marylanu 21203 0717

LB/es cc: J. Ogle Morris Stein weatt. Patton, Harris, Rust and Associates

Dennis F. Rasmussen

#### COVAHEY & BOOZER, P. A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
614 BOSLEY AVENUE
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204
AREA CODE 301

EOWARD C. CO'AHEY, JR. F. VERNON BOOZER MARK S. DEYAN ANTHONY J. DIPAULA

February 26, 1988

D REPLY TO:
ANNEX OFFICE
SUITE IOI
SUITE IOI
606 BALTIMORE AVE.
400 AREA CODE 301
828-5528

Ann M. Nastarowicz
Deputy Zoning Commissioner
County Office Building
110 West Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCES
SW/S LIBERTY ROAD @ FLORIDA ROAD
43 ' + NW OF C/L FLORIDA ROAD,
EXTENDED, (8029-8033 LIBERTY ROAD)
2ND ELECTION DISTRICT 2ND COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT
PETITIONER: EXXON COMPANY, U.S.A.
CASE NO.: 88-3/2-A

Dear Mrs. Nastarowicz:

Pursuant to your request during the hearing held on February 19, 1988, I have been advised by representatives at Exxon that in fact Exxon Company, U.S.A. is the owner of this property. In addition, you requested a proposal from Exxon concerning a reduction in the signage requested. On behalf of the Petitioner, and of course without prejudice to their right to further pursue the matter, Exxon is willing to cooperate not only with the Zoning Commissioner's Office but also with the various protestants who oppose the signage, and would be willing to reduce its request as to this location to one under the 30-40 sq. ft. system, with the diesel sign, the total square footage of which would be 159.08 sq. ft.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Cont / NC

Anthony J. DiPaula

AJD/jab

ONING OFFICE

Ann M. Nastarowicz Deputy Zoning Commissioner February 26, 1988 Page 2

cc: Mary Ginn
The Alliance of Baltimore County
Community Councils, Inc.

David Stein Liberty Communities Development Corp., Inc.

Charles Vaughau Exxon Company, U.S.A.

David S. Wang Frederick Ward & Assoc.

John M. Celentano, Pres. Hernwood Heights Community Assoc., Inc.

Renew, Inc.

LIBERTY COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INC. 3820 Fernside Road
Randallstown, MD 21133
(301) 655-7766

# Liberty Communities Development Corporation (LCDC)

Resolved: That the position of the <u>Liberty Communities</u>

<u>Development Corporation</u> as adopted by the Board of

Directors on January 18, 1988 on the zoning matters known
as:

Case Numbers 88-322-A and 88-323-A for Variances to allow the replacement of existing non-conforming I.D. signs and poles with a new 196.56 sq. ft. sign (8029 Liberty Road) and a new 158.16 sq. ft. sign (9835 Liberty Road) by Exxon Company, USA.

is that: "the Board (LCDC) oppose these petitions." Further, "The staff (Jim Janas and/or David Stein) receive authority, sanction and instructions to testify on behalf of the organization."

AS WITNESS OUR HANDS AND SEAL THIS 19 day of JANUARY 1988

Secretary

President

Liberty Communities Development Corporation

President

PROTESTANT'S

KHIBIT 1

The Alliance of Baltimore County Community Courseils, Inc.

unchs, m.c.\_\_\_\_\_\_

January, 1986

Mrs. Mary Ginn 606 Horncrest Ri. Towson, MD 21204

Mrs. KC Turner 618 W. Chesapeake Ave. Towson, AD 21204

TO: Mary Ginn and KC Turner

I, hereby, ask you, as representatives of ABJs - the Alliance of Baltimore County Community Councils, Inc. - to continue to be present at Baltimore County Zoring Hearings.

As stated many times at its monthly meetings, ABCs opposes any variances of Baltimore County's signing code.

Thank you.

Mary A Besse

Mary Basso, President, ABCs

PROTESTANT'S
HIBIT 2

